



Fact Sheet:



Performance Partnership Grant

Background

The Children's Health Act of 2000 mandated that the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in cooperation with states, develop a performance measurement strategy for alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment and prevention activities. This was a step toward SAMHSA's transition from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant to a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG). The goal of the PPG is to provide greater flexibility to states while ensuring accountability based on outcomes and other performance measures.

As part of the shift from SAPT to PPG, SAMHSA is required to submit to Congress a plan for what performance-based programs will look like and how they will operate. The plan is to include a description of the flexibility states will be given under the PPG, the common set of performance measures, definitions for the data elements to be collected, the funds needed to implement this system and where those funds would come from, needed legislative changes, and an implementation strategy. The plan was due October 2002 but has not yet been released.

In December 2002, SAMHSA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the *Federal Register* for the PPG. The

Federal Register Notice (FRN) identified proposed changes and the treatment and prevention performance measures to which states will be held accountable.

PPG Timelines and Readiness

SAMHSA recognized that some states do not yet have the data infrastructure to collect and report on the proposed performance measures, nor the resources to develop such an infrastructure. In the FRN, SAMHSA identified October 2005 as a target date for states to begin reporting as much performance data as they have available, and October 2006 as the target date for all states to begin submitting all the performance data.

As part of a revision to the SAPT Block Grant application for 2005, SAMHSA requested that states provide a description of their current capabilities and technical assistance needs related to collecting, analyzing, and reporting performance measure data so that SAMHSA can determine readiness for the PPG.

Changes Proposed for the PPG

SAMHSA has proposed the following changes for the transition from the SAPT Block Grant to the PPG:

- ❖ States will be required to analyze their AOD service system, identify areas where

improvements are needed, set statewide performance objectives, and report progress on meeting those objectives.

- ❖ Performance objectives will address efficiency and effectiveness by measuring capacity, process, and outcomes.
- ❖ An incentive system will be implemented to encourage states to further improve treatment and prevention services.
- ❖ The definition of prevention will be changed to be consistent with that of the Institute of Medicine which categorizes prevention activities as universal, selected, or indicated interventions.
- ❖ The requirement for peer review will be eliminated.

Unchanged Requirements

Some existing SAPT expenditure and programmatic requirements will be retained under the PPG, such as maintenance of effort and set asides for prevention, pregnant women, and HIV early intervention services.

Proposed Outcome Measures

Although the performance outcome measures are not final, they are most likely to relate to the following core areas/domains:

Treatment Outcome Measures

- ❖ alcohol and drug use
- ❖ employment status
- ❖ criminal justice involvement

- ❖ living arrangements
- ❖ social support
- ❖ retention

Prevention Outcome Measures

- ❖ number of people served
- ❖ number of services, by types
- ❖ number and percent of evidence-based programs and strategies
- ❖ attitudes toward substance abuse and perceived risk/harm
- ❖ availability of alcohol, drugs and tobacco to underage population
- ❖ stability of nonusers and decreased use among those who have initiated use

Voluntary Performance Measures

As a move toward implementing the PPG, SAMHSA revised the 2005 SAPT block grant application to make the existing voluntary performance measures consistent with the proposed PPG performance measures. If a state does not report data for a voluntary performance measure in the 2005 application, it must provide a plan, with timelines, for capturing the data.